



The Kern River Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group



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May 2018



<http://www.n6krv.org>

N6KRV – An ARRL Affiliated Club
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2018 S.A.R.G. Leadership

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Bill Hesse editor@n6krv.org

Past President

Skip Reymann N6SR

.....

ARES Net

Monday – 6:45 PM
145.450 (-) PL 156.7
Monday – 7:00 PM
145.150 (-) PL 100.00

Club Nets

HF Net –Tue / Thu & Sat 8 PM
3.815 MHz

VHF Net – Friday 7PM
145.450 (-) PL 156.7

Packet Net – Sat 7PM
145.050 on N6KRV-5

Prune Juice & BS Net
Daily (exc. Sunday) 9AM
145.450 (-) PL 156.7

SARG Monthly Meetings

2nd Sat. (exc. Dec.) 9:30AM
KRV Elk's Lodge
6708 Wofford Blvd.,
Wofford Heights, CA 93285



The Prez Sez:

Our April meeting wasn't a true meeting but a swap meet/pot luck luncheon. It was a great get-together none the less. Turnout was very good, the food was plentiful and tasty, we even administered two successful tests. As a result we welcome two new "Hams" to the hobby:

Steven Sorenson KM6SFW, Trevor Meyer KM6SFX
Welcome gentlemen and I hope you have a rewarding and challenging hobby!

As is usual for these things there could have been 40 more people in attendance and we still would have had enough food.

Speaking of food....The "Prune Juice and Baloney Sandwich" luncheon was held at the newly renovated "Dam Corner" cafe on Wednesday April 25th and seemed to be a hit. At least I didn't hear any complaints. Nice new interior and good food.

In my own humble opinion we a great Ham Radio Club. No internal disputes or politics, no special interests and very good attendance. According to our Treasurer (Mike Higgins KA6IYS) our paid membership is up to 41 now.

That is all I can think of for now, 73 to all and I hope to see you at the next meeting. -Bill- N6TF

OUR NEXT MEETING

Mark your “dance card” for Saturday, **May 12th** for our next scheduled meeting. It will be held at the Wofford Heights Elk’s Lodge. Doors open at 9 AM and the meeting starts at 9:30. Donuts and coffee will be served.

Other Coming Events – Conventions, etc.

**If you know of any upcoming events
please let me know at least a
month in advance so I can get them
in the next newsletter.**



Amateur Radio License Information

VE Exams

The club offers exams for new or upgraded licenses after each meeting. Please bring a government issued photo ID (even if we personally know you) and your current license if you have one. Exams are processed by the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group and the fee is \$5. If you pass your exam and wish to take the exam for the next higher class of license there is no additional charge. If you fail the exam and there is time to take a second exam there is an additional \$5 fee. We can process renewals and address changes for \$2, but we recommend that you do this on the FCC website for free. On July 1, 2018 a new question pool will be instituted for the Technician Class Exam. The club website N6KRV.ORG has all three question pools with the distracters (wrong) answers deleted. There is also a link to the complete question pool with all 4 choices showing. Your FCC approved application Form 605 will ask you if you have ever been convicted of a felony. If you answer yes the FCC will contact you before they process your application. The exam team will not ask for any explanation and we will process the application the same as if you had answered no. Questions or reservation requests should be directed to mike@n6krv.org. We ask that you notify us at least 24 hours before the meeting if you intend to take an examination so that we can make sure to have enough examiners available after the meeting.



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

If you hear of any of our members who aren't feeling so well, please let Marty KC6RIZ or Christine KK6AZQ know so they can get a card out to them.

Unfortunately Dick Milburn (N6SKJ) hasn't been having an easy time of it lately. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Dick and many thanks to the members of our club who have been helping him out.

+++++

From ARRL:

Charles Miller Jr, KD4NGA

"The ARRL has many low-profile services that shouldn't be such a secret."

Now that title may raise some eyebrows but the fact is that there is a "secret service" within Amateur

Radio. Not a law enforcement secret service, rather a secret service of specialized Amateur Radio volunteers. These volunteers are among us in our day-to-day Amateur Radio activities. They go the extra mile to provide services to Amateur Radio operators and the hobby itself. I call them "secret" because their roles, and who they are, are not well publicized.

Ham Radio Backup

While the ARRL sponsors many different services, there are some at the section and local level that are not well known. In fact, section members are often not even aware these services exist. This can happen because the section leadership is overwhelmed with other duties. Also, they may not fully understand or appreciate the benefits these various services provide to the hobby.

You may have heard of "Elmers," now sometimes referred to as "mentors." Elmers help the newcomer to the hobby and sometimes the older more experienced ham who wants to learn a new facet of ham radio, such as data modes or satellites. I, for one, sincerely appreciate those who serve as Elmers.

Now the "secret service" I refer to consists of other, less known roles that some hams donate their time to. While there are many different roles supporting ham radio, my focus is on the positions that give the mentor role a deeper, more specialize function. Have you ever heard of a Technical Advisor (TA), Technical Specialist (TS), Technical Coordinator (TC) or Volunteer Consulting Engineer (VCE)? These positions are just a few that help ham radio. Those volunteers help others who have a unique problem or provide support for those experimenting in a current or new mode of radio communications.

Your Technical Teammates

So who are these volunteers? The TA serves as the technical expert in a specific area and is appointed by ARRL HQ for a 1 year renewable term. A TS is a section appointment with no set term. While the TS has some expertise in some area or areas, they are not normally a wizard in all things electronic. That is why it is not uncommon to have several TSs in each section. The TS's primary responsibilities are to

ARRL 'Secrets' cont..

provide general technical information and help in resolving RFI issues to hams in his section.

The TC coordinates the types of expertise each TS has. If there is a need for a specific skill, the TC locates a TS with the needed experience and coordinates connecting the TS with the hams requiring assistance. The TC also recruits individuals to serve in various TS positions and remains in contact with individual hams and clubs in his section to help improve the overall technical base. Often sections either fail to fill the TC position, the TC fails to function or, as in most cases, the service is not well publicized and thus the "secret." For those sections that have a compliment of TSs and a TC, they should make it a point at least annually to make a presentation at club meetings, hamfests and other gatherings about the technical services that are available to hams in the section.

The Volunteer Consulting Engineer (VCE) program helps Amateur Radio operators who want to put up a tower and must meet structural requirements set forth by local zoning authorities. Again this is a program that does not get much press.

A VCE will meet with you to do an initial consultation on the engineering aspects of the problem. *If* you wish to retain the VCE to work with you on the tower proposal, you and the VCE can decide which professional services will be required and negotiate the fees involved. As part of their negotiated professional services the VCE may act as an expert witness on your behalf, answering the questions of the zoning board and insuring that the tower meets all requirements.

Those Amateur Radio operators who are registered professional structural, civil or mechanical engineers may, if they wish, become a VCE. If interested, please contact ARRL Regulatory Information Manager [Dan Henderson](#), N1ND, for information about joining the VCE program. If you need the assistance of a VCE, you can find one at the [VCE](#) Web page.

Now, at least part of the "secret" is out! To find more information visit the [Technical Specialist](#) Web page.

May.....this month in History

May 1st - Observed as May Day, a holiday and spring festival since ancient times, also observed in socialist countries as a workers' holiday or Labor Day.

May 5th - Celebrated in Mexico as Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday in remembrance of the Battle of Puebla in 1862, in which Mexican troops under General Ignacio Zaragoza, outnumbered three to one, defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III.

May 5, 1893 - The Wall Street Crash of 1893 began as stock prices fell dramatically. By the end of the year, 600 banks closed and several big railroads were in receivership. Another 15,000 businesses went bankrupt amid 20 percent unemployment. It was the worst economic crisis in U.S. history up to that time.

May 5, 1961 - Alan Shepard became the first American in space. He piloted the spacecraft *Freedom 7* during a 15-minute 28-second suborbital flight that reached an altitude of 116 miles (186 kilometers) above the earth. Shepard's success occurred 23 days after the Russians had launched the first-ever human in space, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, during an era of intense technological competition between the Russians and Americans called the Space Race.

May 7, 1992 - The 27th [Amendment](#) to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, prohibiting Congress from giving itself pay raises.

May 17, 1875 - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

May 20, 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the *Spirit of St. Louis* attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600 mile journey, he landed at Le

This month cont....

Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

May 20, 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7 p.m. and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours. Five years later, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, she disappeared while trying to fly her twin-engine plane around the equator.

May 24, 1844 - Telegraph inventor [Samuel Morse](#) sent the first official telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?" from the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., to Baltimore.

Ham Radio Glossary

From the ARRL website.....

C-

Crystal oscillator -- A device that uses a quartz crystal to keep the frequency of a transmitter constant.

Crystal-controlled transmitter -- A simple type of transmitter that consists of a crystal oscillator followed by driver and power amplifier stages.

CTCSS -- Continuous tone coded squelch system. A sub-audible tone system used on some repeaters. When added to a carrier, a CTCSS tone allows a receiver to accept a signal. Also called PL.

Cubical quad antenna -- An antenna built with its elements in the shape of four-sided loops. Current -- A flow of electrons in an electrical circuit.

CW (Morse code) -- A communications mode transmitted by on/off keying of a radio-frequency signal. Another name for international Morse code.

D-

D region -- The lowest region of the ionosphere. The D region contributes very little to short-wave radio propagation. It acts mainly to absorb energy from radio waves as they pass through it. This absorption has a significant effect on signals below about 7.5 MHz during daylight.

Data -- Computer-based communications modes, such as packet radio, which can be used to transmit and receive computer files, or digital information.

DE -- The Morse code abbreviation for "from" or "this is." **Deci** -- The metric prefix for 10⁻¹, or divide by 10.

Delta loop antenna -- A variation of the cubical quad with triangular elements.

Detector -- The stage in a receiver in which the modulation (voice or other information) is recovered from the RF signal.

Digipeater -- A packet-radio station used to retransmit signals that are specifically addressed to be retransmitted by that station.

Digital communications -- Computer-based communications modes. This can include data modes like packet radio and text-only modes like radioteletype (RTTY).

Dipole antenna -- See Half-wave dipole. A dipole need not be ½ wavelength long.

Direct current (dc) -- Electrical current that flows in one direction only.

Directional wattmeter (see Wattmeter)

Director -- An element in front of the driven element in a Yagi and some other directional antennas.

Double-pole, double-throw (DPDT) switch -- A switch that has six contacts. The DPDT switch has two center contacts. The two center contacts can each be connected to one of two other contacts.

Double-pole, single-throw (DPST) switch -- A switch that connects two contacts to another set of contacts. A DPST switch turns two circuits on or off at the same time.

Driven element -- The part of an antenna that connects directly to the feed line.

Dual-band antenna -- An antenna designed for use on two different Amateur Radio bands.

Dummy antenna -- A station accessory that allows you to test or adjust transmitting equipment without sending a signal out over the air. Also called dummy load.

Glossary cont...

Dummy load -- A station accessory that allows you to test or adjust transmitting equipment without sending a signal out over the air. Also called dummy antenna.

Duplexer -- A device that allows a dual-band radio to use a single dual-band antenna.

Duty cycle -- A measure of the amount of time a transmitter is operating at full output power during a single transmission. A lower duty cycle means less RF radiation exposure for the same PEP output.

DX -- Distance, foreign countries.

And, once again: our agreement is to “re-print it EXACTLY as published originally” ... We did! So if you noticed any spelling errors, improper spacing, seemingly meaningless statements, punctuation errors, font, etc., etc. It ain't me! (I do all my misspelling, and seemingly meaningless statements elsewhere in this document, and 'apurpose

--- Editor---



Off Topic

Not Radio Related but fun anyway.... When did the world become round??

This is going to be a bit convoluted but please stick with me.

I remember as a child in Grade School learning that in the year 1492 Columbus sailed “the ocean blue” to the New World and somehow proved the world was round. I could be way off base on this but that is how I remember it.

As in many things history can get a bit mixed up on the facts. We have a lot of “verbal” history in our history books and this is a great example of how off track it can become. Did people really think the Earth was flat in 1491? Then in 1492 Columbus made things right?

Nope.....

My 6th grade teacher taught us this lesson but I didn't really grasp the depth of it until I later wrote a piece on it for an astronomy club newsletter that I used to contribute to now and then.

Eratosthenes of Cyrene was a Greek mathematician, poet, astronomer and geographer who was born in Cyrene in the year 276 BC. Cyrene was a city in present day Libya founded by the Greeks.

Eratosthenes is considered among other things, to be the “father of modern geography”. His accomplishments are many and I encourage you to check out his story. But for the sake of this tale I am going to focus on the subject at hand.

Around 240 BC he was in Egypt in the city of Syene. (now called Aswan). It was pretty much accepted by scholars even then that the world was round. Eratosthenes set out to measure it, and he figured out a way so that he didn't even have to leave Egypt.

At noon in Syene the sun happened to be pretty much directly overhead. He knew this because at a local well, when he looked into it his shadow blocked the sun's reflection on the water. So starting with

Off Topic cont.....

that fact he went to Alexandria which was a known distance North of there and at local noon he calculated the angle of the sun.

Without going into all the geometry and math of it he cleverly calculated the circumference of the Earth. He was off a bit but got amazingly close considering the instruments of the day. Some calculations put his error at as little as 66 kilometers. Did I mention this was **240 BC**?

Now, this was the circumference of the Earth over the poles not around the equator. The world isn't a round sphere, it is oblong at the equator. He didn't know that. Also there was later disagreement on the value of a "stade" which was the unit of measure used at the time. A later geographer named Toscanelli changed the calculation to a much smaller unit that resulted in the world being thought of as about a third smaller.

About 1700 years later when Columbus sailed on his famous voyage he had studied Eratosthenes' work but chose to believe the number arrived at by Toscanelli.

Big mistake.

Had he stayed with Eratosthenes' figures, when he finally made landfall he would have known that he was far short of his intended destination of Eastern Asia. He would have known or at least suspected that he had discovered a previously unknown continent. He thought he was off of India. (the reason he called the native people Indians?)

Of course he wasn't even at a continent, it was an island. But that's another story.....

-Editor-

..... *A little (more) humor.....*

A man walks in to a bar, sits down and orders a double-shot of whiskey. The bartender serves it up, the man chugs it down and orders another one. The bartender says,

"You seem upset about something, wanna' talk about it?"

The man says, "I was out bear hunting with a friend this morning. My friend saw a very large bear across the meadow, and just as he raised his rifle to shoot it, the bear came charging at him. He fired, hit the bear in his chest, but it didn't kill him right away. He kept charging, pounced upon, and killed my friend."

"That's really sad, but not uncommon when out hunting." said the bartender, "I was mountain lion hunting several years ago with a friend. He spotted a big cat up in the rocks maybe 100 ft above us. He took a bead on that animal, but just as he pulled the trigger, that cat lunged, got shot, and fell right on top of my friend, killing him instantly."

"Oh, he es right amigo," says the Mexican sitting down at the end of the bar,"My friend was killed by a weasel!"

"A weasel?" questioned the bartender.

"Si senior, he argued weeth hee's wife, was still arguing when he went outside. He was still shouting while walking down the railroad tracks and he no hear the weasel !

(submitted by Al Price N6ALP)

Let me hear from you if you like or don't like what you've seen in this issue of *your* "Kern River Voice". EDITOR@N6KRV.ORG



MAY 2018

Serving the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																											
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